

# Environmental Justice at EPA and Hanford

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AUDIENCE: Hanford Advisory Board Public Involvement Committee

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## What is Environmental Justice?

### ► Environmental Justice

- Environmental justice (EJ) is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”
- Started by individuals, primarily people of color, who sought to address the inequity of environmental protection in their communities

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## EPA & Environmental Justice

- ▶ EO 12898 and accompanying Presidential Memorandum
- ▶ Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (EJIWG)
  - ▶ Chaired by the EPA Administrator and includes 17 agencies and several WH offices
- ▶ National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC)
  - ▶ Federal advisory committee that includes all stakeholders and provides independent advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator
- ▶ Office of Environmental Justice
  - ▶ To coordinate EPA efforts with stakeholders to protect environment and public health by integrating EJ in all programs, policies and activities
  - ▶ Provides financial and technical assistance to communities working constructively and collaboratively to address EJ issues

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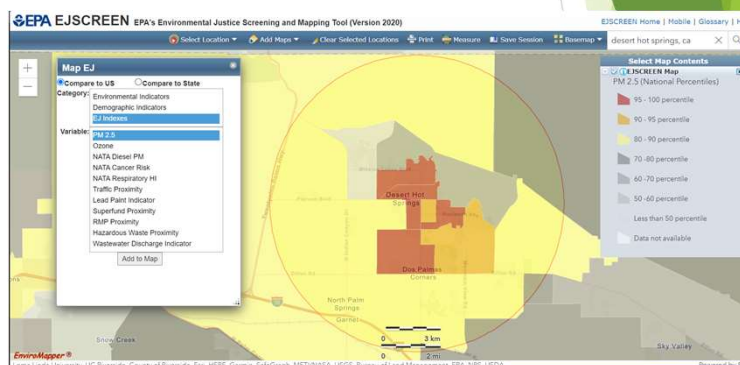
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## Agency's focus on EJ

- ▶ EJSCREEN Tool
  - ▶ Replaced EJView & incorporates recommendations from NEJAC
  - ▶ Nationally consistent dataset and approach for combining environmental and demographic indicators

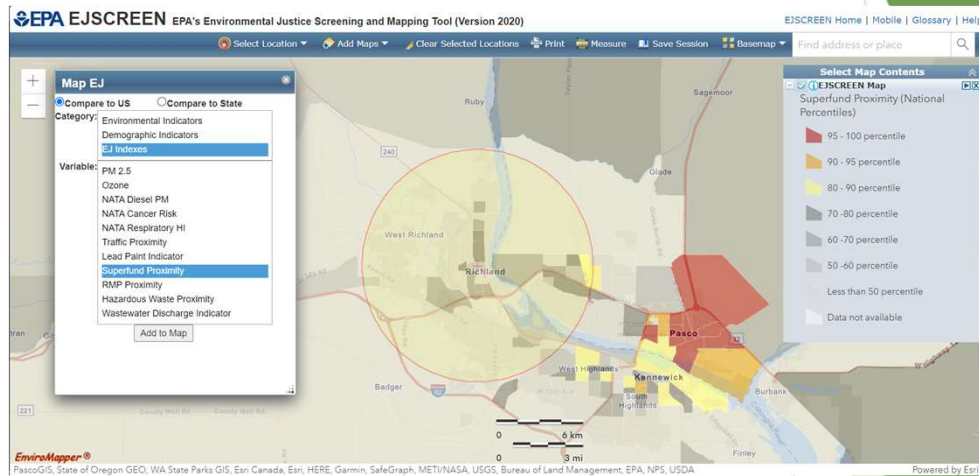
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### Launch the Tool



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## Agency's focus on EJ (cont.)



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EJSCREEN- Richland (NPL Proximity)

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## Agency's focus on EJ (cont.)

- Plan EJ 2014 & EJ 2020 Action Agenda
  - Plan EJ 2014 developed comprehensive suite of basic guidance and tools
  - EJ 2020 planned for action from the years 2016-2020
  - 8 priorities and 4 significant national EJ challenges

### PRIORITY AREAS

- RULEMAKING
- PERMITTING
- COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT
- SCIENCE
- STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
- FEDERAL AGENCIES
- COMMUNITY-BASED WORK
- TRIBES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

### NATIONAL EJ CHALLENGES

- LEAD DISPARITIES
- DRINKING WATER
- AIR QUALITY
- HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

### EJ 2020 Goals & Areas

Goal I: Deepen EJ Practice Within EPA Programs to Improve the Health and Environment of Overburdened Communities	Goal II: Work With Communities to Expand Our Positive Impact Within Overburdened Communities	Goal III: Demonstrate Progress on Significant National Environmental Challenges
Rulemaking	States and Local Governments	Lead Disparities
Permitting	Federal Agencies	Drinking Water
Compliance and Enforcement	Community-Based Work	Air Quality
Science	Tribes and Indigenous Peoples	Hazardous Waste Sites

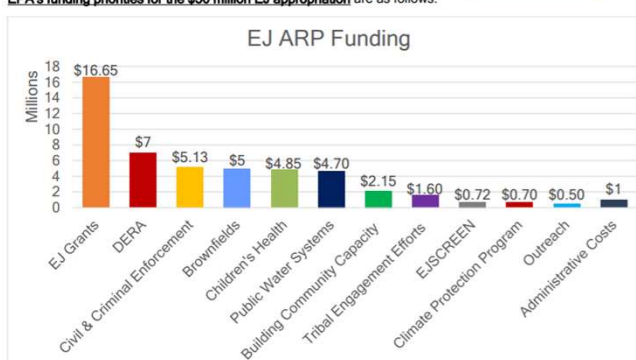
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## Agency's focus on EJ (cont.)

- ▶ American Rescue Plan: Provided supplemental FY21 appropriation of \$100 M
  - ▶ \$50 M directed “for grants, contracts, and other agency activities that identify and address disproportionate environmental or public health harms and risks” under Clean Air Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, CERCLA, and Energy Policy Act

EPA's funding priorities for the \$50 million EJ appropriation are as follows:



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## Agency's focus on EJ (cont.)

- ▶ Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples (2014)
  - ▶ Outlines 17 principles for the agency towards protecting the environment and public health and address EJ concerns with federally recognized tribes and indigenous peoples throughout the United States
- ▶ Environmental Justice Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Advisor (EJ TIPA)
  - ▶ Designated within each EPA program and region
  - ▶ Provide advice and facilitate effective implementation of this Policy

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## EJ and Hanford

- ▶ Standard Terminology
  - ▶ People of color, low-income, and indigenous communities
  - ▶ Communities with EJ Concerns
  - ▶ Defining what your community is and whether it has EJ concerns or not is the right of the communities
- ▶ Currently, EPA has not identified any communities with EJ concerns in Hanford
  - ▶ Hanford is a large controlled NPL site (580 sq. mi.), with nobody living in it
  - ▶ Tribes have stated that issues should be addressed as an obligation under the 1855 treaties rather than as an environmental justice concern
  - ▶ *"That the exclusive right of taking fish in the streams running through and bordering said reservation is hereby secured to said Indians; and at all other usual and accustomed stations, in common with the citizens of the United States . . . ."*

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Questions?

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## Sources

- ▶ Learn about Environmental Justice: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/learn-about-environmental-justice>
- ▶ EJIWG: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/federal-interagency-working-group-environmental-justice-ej-iwg>
- ▶ NEJAC: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-advisory-council>
- ▶ Factsheet on the EPA's Office of Environmental Justice: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-09/documents/epa\\_office\\_of\\_environmental\\_justice\\_factsheet.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-09/documents/epa_office_of_environmental_justice_factsheet.pdf)
- ▶ EJSCREEN: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>
- ▶ EJ2020 Action Agenda: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-action-agenda-epas-environmental-justice-strategy>
- ▶ EJ2020 PDF: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-05/documents/052216\\_ej\\_2020\\_strategic\\_plan\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-05/documents/052216_ej_2020_strategic_plan_final_0.pdf)
- ▶ EPA ARP Funding: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2021-09/arp-fact-sheet.pdf>
- ▶ EJ for Tribes & Indigenous Peoples: <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-tribes-and-indigenous-peoples>
- ▶ EJ Indigenous Peoples Policy: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-10/documents/ej-indigenous-policy.pdf?VersionId=fETfCeyPmIV.T5FzTQcZWmsw.a5JgCG>
- ▶ Treaties Trail: Background History : <https://www.washingtonhistory.org/education/curriculum/treaty-trail/treaty-trail-background-readings/>

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